

**CHAPTER 90 - SEARCH AND RESCUE****SEARCH AND RESCUE**

- **USDI / USDA - FOREST SERVICE SEARCH AND RESCUE.** Under Federal manual and Washington Office Directives, general guidelines have been established for Department of Interior and National Forests to develop their own individual Search and Rescue Plans. At this time, each will have plans to fit programs unique to their own units.

- **USDA - FOREST SERVICE RESPONSIBILITIES.** Inside and outside the National Forests, as a humanitarian measure, the use of Forest Service personnel and equipment is authorized for the purpose of protecting life and property and for relieving suffering and distress arising from such causes as floods, fires, earthquakes, tornadoes and snowstorms.

The Regional Forester should be notified promptly of any extraordinary use or obligation of funds, or use of manpower or equipment. Obligations incurred should be considered as payable out of currently available funds only, without expectation of reimbursement. Only in rare cases does Congress appropriate supplemental funds to reimburse agencies for each extraordinary expense, unless the expenditures were made under the disaster law. (FSM 1522.61)

- **DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY.** Each agency head charged with the duty of providing fire protection for any property of the United States is authorized to enter into a reciprocal agreement, with any fire organization maintaining fire protection facilities in the vicinity of such property and for other property for which such organization normally provides fire protection.

In the absence of any agreement authorized or ratified, each agency head is authorized to render emergency assistance in extinguishing fires and in preserving life and property from fire, within the vicinity of any place at which such agency maintains fire protection facilities, when the rendition of such assistance is determined under regulations prescribed by the agency head to be in the best interest of the United States.

For search and rescue which is non-fire related, obligations incurred should be considered as payable out of currently available funds only, without expectation of reimbursement.

- **LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF STATE AGENCIES.** The protection of life and property and the maintenance of law and order within the territorial jurisdiction of any state is primarily the responsibility of state and local authorities. In some states, the basic law places responsibility for protection of life and property and the search for lost persons on the sheriffs of the respective counties. In other states, the State Highway Patrol has the responsibility to assist during emergencies involving protection of life and property.
- **MILITARY RESPONSIBILITIES.** For the land area of the United States, the Air Rescue Service of the Air Force is charged with the responsibility of providing search, survival aid and rescue of passengers and crew of missing and/or crashed aircraft in accidents which do not occur in the proximity of airports. This responsibility applies to all aircraft, civil as well as military.

1 **AIRCRAFT EMERGENCY RESPONSE (CRASH/RESCUE) PLAN.** The Crash/Rescue Plan outlines  
2 recommended actions to be taken whenever there is an overdue, missing, or crashed aircraft, or an  
3 aircraft search-and-rescue operation is necessary. Whenever such action must be taken, use the unit's  
4 Aircraft Emergency Response Plan to expedite emergency actions.

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6 All personnel involved in Aviation and Dispatch should be familiar with the contents of the Unit plan.  
7 Those who do not deal with aviation on a regular basis should be able to use this guide to accomplish the  
8 purpose in the absence of more knowledgeable individuals.

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10 • **USDI AGENCIES.** Interior Agencies/Units should refer to their Interagency Aviation Mishap  
11 Response Guide and Checklist (NFES 002659) or download from AMD website at:

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13 <http://amd.nbc.gov/safety/library/iamrgc.pdf>

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15 • **USDA - FOREST SERVICE.** USDA - Forest Service units should refer to the Intermountain Region  
16 Aircraft Crash, Search and Rescue Guide.

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18 • **INTERAGENCY CENTERS.** Interagency dispatch centers should develop plans, guidance and  
19 instructions common to all agencies.

## 20 21 **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.**

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23 • **AVIATION TRANSPORTATION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.** Reference Department of  
24 Transportation's Special Permit Authorization DOT-SP-9198 (16th Revision),

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26 Expiration Dates: 1/31/15 (DOI) and 3/31/14 (USFS). This Permit can be found at either of the  
27 following websites:

28  
29 <http://amd.nbc.gov/dts/tsdocs/FY2012/IATB1201.pdf>

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31 [http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/staticfiles/PHMSA/SPA\\_App/OfferDocuments/SP9198\\_2010051148.pdf](http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/staticfiles/PHMSA/SPA_App/OfferDocuments/SP9198_2010051148.pdf)

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33 USDI and USDA - FS personnel should refer to USDI Handbook and USDA - FS Guide, Interagency  
34 Aviation Transport of Hazardous Materials, NFES 001068, (January 2005).

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36 • **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS LOCATION.** If material that may be hazardous to the environment or to  
37 an individual's health is located on public lands, immediate and proper notification is essential. Any  
38 containers found or spills occurring with suspicious or unknown contents, which may contain  
39 hazardous waste materials, shall be reported immediately. The usual contacts will be made through  
40 the County Sheriff or the State Environmental Protection Agency. Refer to local unit hazardous  
41 materials plans for specific actions.

1 **NATIONAL RESPONSE FRAMEWORK.** The National Response Framework (formerly the National  
2 Response Plan), through the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), assigns  
3 the USDA-Forest Service responsibility for emergency support for wildland fire suppression. Upon  
4 notification by FEMA, the Forest Service provides National Fire Suppression Liaison Officers, located  
5 either at FEMA Headquarters or in Fire and Aviation Management, Washington D.C., who serves as a  
6 liaison between FEMA, primary and secondary Federal agencies, NICC, and Region Fire Suppression  
7 Support Coordinators.

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9 Additionally, the Forest Service Regional Office provides a Fire Suppression Support Coordinator, who  
10 operates under the direction of the Presidentially-appointed Federal Coordinating Officer. The  
11 Suppression Support Coordinator is responsible for coordinating Federal firefighting response at the  
12 Regional level and for providing assistance to other emergency support functions identified in the National  
13 Response Framework. Request for DOI or USFS resources will be placed through normal dispatch  
14 channels.

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16 If a Great Basin Coordination Center is unable to provide assistance during non-fire disasters, the  
17 operating center will assume operating responsibility to expedite “closest forces” resources.

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